

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claims 2-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claims 11-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus for transferring image data from a first network to a second network, said apparatus comprising:

a first discrimination unit configured to discriminate if the received image data is confidential or not;

a judgment unit configured to judge if the transfer path to the destination of the received image data over the second network is secure or not, when the result of the discrimination by said first discrimination unit indicates the received image data is confidential;

and

a first control unit configured to control, when the result of the discrimination by said first discrimination unit indicates the received image data is not confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data over the second network regardless of whether the transfer path to the destination of the received image data over the second network is secure or not; and

a storage second control unit configured to control, when the result of the discrimination by said first discrimination unit indicates the received image data is confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data over the second network when the result of the judgment by said judgment unit indicates the transfer path is secure, and to store the received image data in a storage area corresponding to the destination of the received image data without transferring the received image data to the destination, when the result of the judgment by said judgment unit indicates the transfer path is not secure.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

a management unit configured to manage address of the destination in relation with whether there exists a public key;

a second discrimination unit configured to discriminate whether there exists the public key related to the address of the destination, if said judgment unit judges that the transfer path is not secure;

an encrypting unit configured to encrypt the received image data, if said second

discrimination unit discriminates that there exists the public key; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit the received image data encrypted by said encrypting unit to the destination.

27. (Currently Amended) A control method for a communication apparatus for transferring image data from a first network to a second network, said method comprising:

~~a first discrimination step~~ of discriminating if the received image data is confidential or not;

~~a judgment step~~ of judging if the transfer path to the destination of the received image data over the second network is secure or not, when the result of the discrimination ~~in said first discrimination step~~ indicates the received image data is confidential; and

controlling, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is not confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data over the second network regardless of whether the transfer path to the destination of the received image data over the second network is secure or not; and

~~a storage control step~~ of controlling , when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data over the second network when the result of the judgment indicates the transfer path is secure, and to store the received image data in a storage area corresponding to the destination of the received image data without transferring the received image data to the destination; when the result of the judgment ~~in said judgment step~~ indicates the transfer path is not secure.

28. (Currently Amended) A storage medium computer-readably storing a program for causing a computer to execute a control method for a communication apparatus for transferring image data from a first network to a second network, said method comprising:

~~a first discrimination step~~ of discriminating if the received image data is confidential or not;

~~a judgment step~~ of judging if the transfer path to the destination of the received image data over the second network is secure or not, when the result of the discrimination ~~in said first discrimination step~~ indicates the received image data is confidential; and

controlling, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is not confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data over the second network regardless of whether the transfer path to the destination of the received image data over the second network is secure or not; and

~~a storage control step~~ of controlling, when the result of the discrimination indicates the received image data is confidential, to transfer the received image data to the destination of the received data over the second network when the result of the judgment indicates the transfer path is secure, and to store the received image data in a storage area corresponding to the destination of the received image data without transferring the received image data to the destination; when the result of the judgment ~~in said judgment step~~ indicates the transfer path is not secure.